



Arts & Social
Sciences

School of Humanities and Languages

ARTS 2301, Computers, Brains & Minds Semester 2, 2014

1. Course Staff and Contact Details
2. Course Details
3. Learning and Teaching Rationale
4. Teaching Strategies
5. Course Assessment
6. Attendance/Class Clash
7. Academic Honesty and Plagiarism
8. Course Schedule
9. Course Resources
10. Course Evaluation and Development
11. Student Support
12. Grievances
13. Other Information

1. Course Staff and Contact Details

Course Convenor			
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Consultation Time			
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2. Course Details

Units of Credit (UoC)	6	
Course Description	Introduction to contemporary and historical discussions of mind, thought, intelligence, language and consciousness. Focuses on the issues which arise in connection with the so-called 'cognitive sciences' - disciplines including neuro-science, psychology, linguistics, philosophy of mind and artificial intelligence. Can computers think? Is the brain a computer?	
Course Aims	1.	Students who successfully complete this course will have gained an understanding, and also an ability to apply and think critically about key concepts and controversies in the philosophy of mind a cognitive science (These include the mind-body problem and consciousness, intelligence in artificial systems; language and innateness, intentionality and meaning; creativity and problem solving heuristics; neural nets, distributed processing; visual imagery and mental representations, decision making).

3. Learning and Teaching Rationale

The teaching is conducted through lectures and tutorials. Lectures are designed to inform as well as provoke critical thinking, debate and to stimulate thoughtful reading of the literature.

Tutorials are intended to provide an opportunity to read important scholarly articles and to discuss and debate the central issues in an informal setting.

4. Teaching Strategies

The issues arising in philosophy of psychology and cognitive science are very controversial and are presented not as fixed, received dogma to be learned but as issues to be debated and discussed. Besides contemporary theories, the issues arising in the history of the subject are also matters of academic debate and will be presented as live questions to be debated rather than learned as accepted truth.

5. Course Assessment

Assessment Task	Length	Weight	Learning Outcomes Assessed	Graduate Attributes Assessed	Due Date
Tutorials & Journals	500 words	30%	Key concepts & theories		Weekly
Essay	3,000 words	30%	Critical analysis & writing		Due Monday October 27
Class Tests	1000 words	2 x 20%	Key concepts & theories		Week 7 & 13

Please Note: In addition to fulfilling the above assessment requirements, students are expected to attend at least 80% of their lectures and tutorials in order to pass the course.

Grades

All results are reviewed at the end of each semester and may be adjusted to ensure equitable marking across the School.

The proportion of marks lying in each grading range is determined not by any formula or quota system, but by the way that students respond to assessment tasks and how well they meet the objectives of the course. Nevertheless, since higher grades imply performance that is well above average, the number of distinctions and high distinctions awarded in a typical course is relatively small. At the other extreme, on average 6.1% of students do not meet minimum standards and a little more (8.6%) in first year courses. For more information on the grading categories see

<https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/academiclife/assessment/GuideToUNSWGrades.html>

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Assignments which are submitted to the School Assignment Box must have a properly completed School Assessment Coversheet, with the declaration signed and dated by hand. The Coversheet can be downloaded from

<https://hal.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/courses/course-outlines/>. It is your responsibility to make a backup copy of the assignment prior to submission and retain it.

Assignments must be submitted before 4:00pm on the due date. Assignments received after this time will be marked as having been received late.

Late Submission of Assignments

Permission of the Course Convenor must be obtained for late submission of any assignment.

In some cases students may be required to provide documentary evidence of illness or serious misadventure. Time pressure resulting from undertaking assignments for other courses does not constitute an acceptable excuse for lateness.

6. Attendance/Class Clash

Attendance

Students are expected to be regular and punctual in attendance at all classes in the courses in which they are enrolled. Explanations of absences from classes or requests for permission to be absent from classes should be discussed with the teacher and where applicable accompanied by a medical certificate. If students attend less than 80% of their possible classes they may be refused final assessment.

Students who falsify their attendance or falsify attendance on behalf of another student will be dealt with under the student misconduct policy.

Class Clash

A student who is approved a permissible clash must fulfil the following requirements:

- a. The student must provide the Course Convenor with copies of lecture notes from those lectures missed on a regular basis as agreed by the Course Convenor and the student.
- b. If a student does attend a lecture for which they had secured a permitted clash they will still submit lecture notes as evidence of attendance.
- c. **Failure to meet these requirements is regarded as unsatisfactory performance in the course and a failure to meet the Faculty's course attendance requirement. Accordingly, Course Convenors will fail students who do not meet this performance/attendance requirement.**
- d. Students must attend the clashed lecture on a specific date if that lecture contains an assessment task for the course such as a quiz or test. Inability to meet this requirement would be grounds for a Course Convenor refusing the application. If the student misses the said lecture there is no obligation on the Course Convenor to schedule a make-up quiz or test and the student can receive zero for the assessment task. It should be noted that in many courses a failure to complete an assessment task can be grounds for course failure.

7. Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's thoughts or work as your own. It can take many forms, from not having appropriate academic referencing to deliberate cheating.

In many cases plagiarism is the result of inexperience about academic conventions. The University has resources and information to assist you to avoid plagiarism.

The Learning Centre assists students with understanding academic integrity and how to not plagiarise. Information is available on their website: <http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism/>. They also hold workshops and can help students one-on-one.

If plagiarism is found in your work when you are in first year, your lecturer will offer you assistance to improve your academic skills. They may ask you to look at some online resources, attend the Learning Centre, or sometimes resubmit your work with the problem fixed. However, more serious instances in first year, such as stealing another student's work or paying someone to do your work, may be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures.

Repeated plagiarism (even in first year), plagiarism after first year, or serious instances, may also be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures. The penalties under the procedures can include a reduction in marks, failing a course or for the most serious matters (like plagiarism in an Honours thesis) or even suspension from the university. The Student Misconduct Procedures are available here:

<http://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentmisconductprocedures.pdf>

8. Course Schedule

To view course timetable, please visit: <http://www.timetable.unsw.edu.au/>

Week Commencing:	Topic	Lecture Content	Tutorial/Lab Content	Readings
Monday July 28	General Introduction			
Monday Aug 4	Historical	Plato to Descartes		Descartes
Monday Aug 11	Mind-Body Problem	Dualism, Materialism		McGinn, Nagel, Jackson
Monday Aug 18	Mind-Body Problem	Functionalism		Slezak Block Gunderson
Monday Aug 25	Behaviourism	Watson, Skinner & Chomsky		Chomsky Dennett
Monday Sept 1	Language & Mind	Chomsky Revolution		Searle Pylyshyn
Monday Sept 8	Language & Mind	Generative Grammar		Chomsky Slezak
Monday Sept 15	Innateness	Plato to Chomsky		Chomsky Putnam Hauser
Monday Sept 22	Minds & Machines	Turing Machines & Gödel's Th.		Turing Lucas Slezak

Monday Sept 29	Mid-Semester Break			
Monday Oct 6	Artificial Intelligence	Minds, Brains & Programs		Newell, Simon Dennett Searle
Monday Oct 13	Neural Nets	Connectionism		Stich Thagard van Gelder
Monday Oct 20	Mental Representation	Imagery Debate		Kosslyn Pylyshyn Slezak
Monday Oct 27	Decision making	Biases & Heuristics		Tversky, Kahnemann Slezak

9. Course Resources

Textbook Details

Text: Reading Kit prepared for Course

Recommended: Steven Pinker, *How the Mind Works* (Penguin)

10. Course Evaluation and Development

Courses are periodically reviewed and students' feedback is used to improve them. Feedback is gathered using various means including UNSW's Course and Teaching Evaluation and Improvement (CATEI) process.

11. Student Support

The Learning Centre is available for individual consultation and workshops on academic skills. Find out more by visiting the Centre's website at:

<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au>

12. Grievances

All students should be treated fairly in the course of their studies at UNSW. Students who feel they have not been dealt with fairly should, in the first instance, attempt to resolve any issues with their tutor or the course convenors.

If such an approach fails to resolve the matter, the School of Humanities and Languages has an academic member of staff who acts as a Grievance Officer for the School. This staff member is identified on the notice board in the School of Humanities and languages. Further information about UNSW grievance procedures is available at:

<https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/Complaints.html>

13. Other Information

myUNSW

myUNSW is the online access point for UNSW services and information, integrating online services for applicants, commencing and current students and UNSW staff. To visit myUNSW please visit either of the below links:

<https://my.unsw.edu.au>

<https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/ABC.html>

OHS

UNSW's Occupational Health and Safety Policy requires each person to work safely and responsibly, in order to avoid personal injury and to protect the safety of others. For all matters relating to Occupational Health, Safety and environment, see

<http://www.ohs.unsw.edu.au/>

Special Consideration

In cases where illness or other circumstances produce repeated or sustained absence, students should apply for Special Consideration as soon as possible.

The application must be made via Online Services in myUNSW. Log into myUNSW and go to My Student Profile tab > My Student Services channel > Online Services > Special Consideration.

Applications on the grounds of illness must be filled in by a medical practitioner. Further information is available at:

<https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/SpecialConsideration.html>

Student Equity and Disabilities Unit

Students who have a disability that requires some adjustment in their learning and teaching environment are encouraged to discuss their study needs with the course convener prior to or at the commencement of the course, or with the Student Equity Officers (Disability) in the Student Equity and Disabilities Unit (9385 4734). Information for students with disabilities is available at: <http://www.studentequity.unsw.edu.au>

Issues that can be discussed may include access to materials, signers or note-takers, the provision of services and additional examination and assessment arrangements. Early notification is essential to enable any necessary adjustments to be made.